General Assembly

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19 February 2014

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 15

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.28 and Add.1)*]

68/125. Follow-up to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace

The General Assembly,

Bearing in mind the Charter of the United Nations, including the purposes and principles contained therein, and especially the dedication to saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war,

Recalling the Constitution of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, which states that, "since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed",

Recognizing the importance of the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action[2] on a Culture of Peace, which serve as the universal mandate for the international community, particularly the United Nations system, for the promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence that benefits humanity, in particular future generations,

Recalling its previous resolutions on a culture of peace, in particular resolution 52/15 of 20 November 1997 proclaiming 2000 the International Year for the Culture of Peace, resolution 53/25 of 10 November 1998 proclaiming the period 2001–2010 the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, and resolutions 56/5 of 5 November 2001, 57/6 of 4 November 2002, 58/11 of 10 November 2003, 59/143 of 15 December 2004, 60/3 of 20 October 2005, 61/45 of 4 December 2006, 62/89 of 17 December 2007, 63/113 of 5 December 2008, 64/80 of 7 December 2009, 65/11 of 23 November 2010, 66/116 of 12 December 2011 and 67/106 of 17 December 2012, adopted under its agenda item entitled "Culture of peace",

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[3] which calls for the active promotion of a culture of peace,

[1] Resolution 53/243 A.
[2] Resolution 53/243 B.
[3] Resolution 55/2.

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Taking note of the 2005 World Summit Outcome adopted at the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly,[4]

Welcoming the observance of 2 October as the International Day of Non-Violence, as proclaimed by the United Nations,[5]

Recognizing that all efforts made by the United Nations system in general and the international community at large for peacekeeping, peacebuilding, the prevention of conflicts, disarmament, sustainable development, the promotion of human dignity and human rights, democracy, the rule of law, good governance and gender equality at the national and international levels contribute greatly to the culture of peace,

Recognizing also the importance of respect and understanding for religious and cultural diversity throughout the world, of choosing negotiations over confrontation and of working together and not against each other,

Welcoming the report of the Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace, submitted pursuant to resolution 67/106 and transmitted by the Secretary-General,[6]

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace,[7]

Recalling the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 21 February as International Mother Language Day, which aims at protecting, promoting and preserving linguistic and cultural diversity and multilingualism, in order to foster and enrich a culture of peace, social harmony, cross-cultural dialogue and mutual understanding,

Recalling also the proclamation by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization of 30 April as International Jazz Day, which aims to develop and increase intercultural exchanges and understanding between cultures for the purpose of mutual comprehension, tolerance and the promotion of a culture of peace,

Expressing its appreciation for the ongoing efforts of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations in promoting a culture of peace through a number of practical projects in the areas of youth, education, media and migrations, in collaboration with Governments, international organizations, foundations and civil society groups, as well as media and the private sector,

Welcoming the successful holding on 6 September 2013 of the General Assembly High-level Forum on the Culture of Peace, convened by the President of the Assembly, and the high-level participation, wide-ranging partnership and inclusive collaboration among Member States, international organizations and civil society, as evidenced at the Forum,

Welcoming also the adoption by the General Conference of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization at its thirty-sixth session of a programme of action for a culture of peace and non-violence, and noting that the

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[4] Resolution 60/1.

[5] Resolution 61/271.

[6] A/68/216.

[7] A/68/286.

objectives of that programme of action are in line with the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace adopted by the General Assembly,

Encouraging the continued and increasing efforts and activities on the part of civil society organizations throughout the world in advancing the culture of peace as envisaged in the Declaration and Programme of Action,

1. *Reiterates* that the objective of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace[2] is to strengthen further the global movement for a culture of peace following the observance of the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Non-Violence for the Children of the World, 2001–2010, and calls upon all concerned to renew their attention to this objective;

2. *Notes* the mention by the Secretary-General in the report[6] that peace should be given due consideration in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda;

3. *Invites* Member States to continue to place greater emphasis on and expand their activities promoting a culture of peace at the national, regional and international levels and to ensure that peace and non-violence are fostered at all levels;

4. *Invites* the entities of the United Nations system, within their existing mandates, to integrate, as appropriate, the eight action areas of the Programme of Action into their programmes of activities, focusing on promoting a culture of peace and non-violence at the national, regional and international levels;

5. *Commends* the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, for which the promotion of a culture of peace is the expression of its fundamental mandate, for further strengthening the activities it has undertaken to promote a culture of peace;

6. *Commends* the practical initiatives and actions by relevant United Nations bodies, including the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the University for Peace, as well as their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including the promotion of peace education and activities related to specific areas identified in the Programme of Action, and encourages them to continue and further strengthen and expand their efforts;

7. *Encourages* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to promote peacebuilding activities and to advance a culture of peace and non-violence in post-conflict peacebuilding efforts at the country level;

8. *Urges* the appropriate authorities to provide age-appropriate education in children's schools that builds a culture of peace, including lessons in mutual understanding, tolerance, active citizenship and human rights;

9. *Encourages* the involvement of media, especially the mass media, in promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, with particular regard to children and young people;

10. *Commends* civil society, non-governmental organizations and young people for their activities in further promoting a culture of peace and non-violence, including through their campaign to raise awareness on a culture of peace and the peaceful settlement of disputes;

11. *Encourages* civil society and non-governmental organizations to further strengthen their efforts to promote a culture of peace, inter alia, by adopting their own programme of activities to complement the initiatives of Member States, the organizations of the United Nations system and other international and regional

organizations, in line with the Declaration[1] and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace;

12. *Stresses* the role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in mobilizing all relevant stakeholders within and outside the United Nations system in support of a culture of peace, cultural diversity and intercultural dialogue, and invites the Organization to continue to enhance communication and outreach, including through the culture of peace website;

13. *Invites* Member States, all parts of the United Nations system and civil society organizations to accord increasing attention to their observance of the International Day of Peace on 21 September each year as a day of global ceasefire and non-violence, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 55/282 of 7 September 2001;

14. *Requests* the President of the General Assembly to consider convening a high-level forum, as appropriate and within existing resources, devoted to the implementation of the Programme of Action on the occasion of the anniversary of its adoption, on or around 13 September;

15. *Invites* the Secretary-General, within existing resources, in consultation with the Member States and taking into account the observations of civil society organizations, to explore mechanisms and strategies, in particular strategies in the sphere of information and communications technology, for the implementation of the Declaration and Programme of Action and to initiate outreach efforts to increase global awareness of the Programme of Action and its eight areas of action aimed at their implementation;

16. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on actions undertaken system-wide by all concerned entities of the United Nations to implement the present resolution and on heightened activities by the Organization and its affiliated agencies to implement the Programme of Action and to promote a culture of peace and non-violence;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "Culture of peace".

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68/126. Promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1] in particular the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion,

Recalling its resolution 67/104 of 17 December 2012 on the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and cooperation for peace and its other related resolutions,

Recalling also that in its resolution 67/104 the General Assembly proclaimed the period 2013–2022 as the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures,

Encouraging, in this regard, activities aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue in order to enhance peace and social stability, respect for diversity and mutual respect and to create, at the global level, and also at the regional, national and local levels, an environment conducive to peace and mutual understanding,

Recalling its resolution 64/14 of 10 November 2009 on the Alliance of Civilizations, in which it welcomed efforts to promote greater understanding and respect among people from different civilizations, cultures and religions,

Bearing in mind the valuable contribution that interreligious and intercultural dialogue can make to an improved awareness and understanding of the common values shared by all humankind,

Noting that interreligious and intercultural dialogue has made significant contributions to mutual understanding, tolerance and respect, as well as to the promotion of a culture of peace and an improvement of overall relations among people from different cultural and religious backgrounds and among nations,

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

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Recognizing that cultural diversity and the pursuit of cultural development by all peoples and nations are sources of mutual enrichment for the cultural life of humankind,

Bearing in mind that tolerance of cultural, ethnic, religious and linguistic diversities contributes towards peace, mutual understanding and friendship among people of different cultures and nations and that these diversities should be made part of intercultural and interreligious dialogue efforts, as appropriate,

Emphasizing the importance of culture for development and its contribution to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard noting the close links between cultural diversity, dialogue and development,

Noting the various initiatives at the local, national, regional and international levels for enhancing dialogue, understanding and cooperation among religions, cultures and civilizations, which are mutually reinforcing and interrelated,

Welcoming the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in promoting intercultural dialogue, as well as the work of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations and the Anna Lindh Foundation and the ongoing work of the King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue in Vienna,

Welcoming also the provisions of the Vientiane Declaration on interfaith dialogue, adopted on 6 November 2012 by the Asia-Europe Meeting, and recognizing the importance it places on interfaith dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development,

Acknowledging the positive contribution of individuals and of relevant civil society organizations to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, understanding and the culture of peace,

Recognizing the contributions of the media and of new information and communications technology to promoting peoples' understanding of different cultures and religions, including through the promotion of dialogue,

Reaffirming the importance of sustaining the process of engaging all stakeholders, including young men and women as relevant actors, in interreligious and intercultural dialogue within the appropriate initiatives at various levels, which aims to challenge prejudices and improve mutual understanding,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace and the need for voices of moderation from all religions and beliefs to work together in order to build a more secure and peaceful world,

1. *Reaffirms* that mutual understanding and interreligious and intercultural dialogue constitute important dimensions of the dialogue among civilizations and of the culture of peace;

2. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[2]

3. *Recognizes* the importance of interreligious dialogue and its valuable contribution to promoting social cohesion, peace and development, and calls upon Member States to consider, as appropriate and where applicable, interreligious and

[2] A/68/286.

intercultural dialogue as an important tool in efforts aimed at achieving peace and social stability and the full realization of the Millennium Development Goals;

4. *Also recognizes* the efforts by relevant stakeholders to foster peaceful and harmonious coexistence within societies by promoting respect for religious and cultural diversity, including by engendering sustained and robust interaction among various segments of society;

5. *Notes* the leading role of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on intercultural dialogue and its contribution to interreligious dialogue, as well as its activities related to the culture of peace and non-violence and its focus on concrete actions at the global, regional and subregional levels;

6. *Welcomes* the launch of the International Decade for the Rapprochement of Cultures (2013–2022), for which the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, in consultation with Member States and the relevant intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, will provide a plan of action to enhance interreligious and intercultural dialogue and to promote tolerance and mutual understanding;

7. *Reaffirms* the solemn commitment of all States to fulfil their obligations to promote universal respect for and observance and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and other instruments relating to human rights and international law, the universal nature of these rights and freedoms being beyond question;

8. *Welcomes* the outcome of the Seventh Asia-Europe Meeting Interfaith Dialogue, on harnessing the benefits and addressing the challenges of migration through interfaith and intercultural dialogue, held in Manila in 2011, and looks forward to the Asia-Europe Meeting High-level International Conference on Intercultural and Interfaith Dialogue, to be held in St. Petersburg, Russian Federation in July 2014;

9. *Also welcomes* the outcome document entitled "Vienna Declaration on the Alliance of Civilizations" of the Fifth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, held in Vienna on 27 and 28 February 2013, and looks forward to the Sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, to be held in Bali, Indonesia, in August 2014;

10. *Underlines* the importance of moderation as a value within societies for countering extremism in all its aspects and for further contributing to the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation;

11. *Welcomes* the efforts by the media to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, encourages the further promotion of dialogue among the media from all cultures and civilizations, emphasizes that everyone has the right to freedom of expression, and reaffirms that the exercise of this right carries with it special duties and responsibilities and may therefore be subject to certain restrictions, but that these shall be only such as are provided by law and necessary for respect of the rights or reputations of others, protection of national security or of public order, or of public health or morals;

12. *Also welcomes* the efforts to use information and communications technology, including the Internet, to promote interreligious and intercultural dialogue, including through the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal established following the Special Non-Aligned Movement Ministerial Meeting on Interfaith Dialogue and

Cooperation for Peace and Development, held in Manila in 2010, and encourages relevant stakeholders to utilize the opportunity to disseminate their best practices and experiences on interreligious and intercultural dialogue by contributing to the Interfaith Dialogue e-Portal;

13. *Encourages* Member States to consider, as and where appropriate, initiatives that identify areas for practical action in all sectors and levels of society for the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue, tolerance, understanding and cooperation, inter alia, the ideas suggested during the High-level Dialogue on Interreligious and Intercultural Understanding and Cooperation for Peace, held in New York in October 2007, including the idea of an enhanced process of dialogue among world religions, as well as the ideas suggested during the third High Panel on Peace and Dialogue among Cultures, held in Paris in November 2012;

14. *Acknowledges* the active engagement of the United Nations system with faith-based organizations and relevant non-governmental organizations in the promotion of interreligious and intercultural dialogue and in bringing together people of different cultures, religions, faiths or beliefs to discuss common issues and objectives;

15. *Also acknowledges* the important role of civil society, including academia, in fostering interreligious and intercultural dialogue, and encourages support for practical measures that mobilize civil society, including building capacities, opportunities and frameworks for cooperation;

16. *Invites* Member States to further promote reconciliation to help to ensure durable peace and sustained development, including through reconciliatory measures and acts of service and by encouraging forgiveness and compassion among individuals;

17. *Recognizes* that the Office for Economic and Social Council Support and Coordination in the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat plays a valuable role as focal point within the Secretariat on the issue, and encourages it to continue to interact and coordinate with the relevant entities of the United Nations system and coordinate their contribution to the intergovernmental process aimed at promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue;

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

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[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.31 and Add.1)*]

68/127. A world against violence and violent extremism

The General Assembly,

Guided by the purposes and principles set forth in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling its resolutions 2625 (XXV) of 24 October 1970, 36/103 of 9 December 1981, 39/11 of 12 November 1984, 49/60 of 9 December 1994, 53/243 of 13 September 1999, 55/282 of 7 September 2001, 56/6 of 9 November 2001, 60/288 of 8 September 2006, 64/14 of 10 November 2009, 66/171 of 19 December 2011, 67/99 of 14 December 2012 and 67/173, 67/178 and 67/179 of 20 December 2012 and the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action,[2]

Reaffirming that the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter include, inter alia, to develop friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, and to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction of any kind such as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, property, birth or other status,

Underlining that all Member States have undertaken to refrain in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of the United Nations,

Alarmed by the acts of intolerance, violent extremism, violence, including sectarian violence, and terrorism in various parts of the world, which claim innocent

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).

[2] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

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lives, cause destruction and displace people, and rejecting the use of violence, regardless of any motivation,

Reaffirming the commitment made by all States under the Charter to promote and encourage universal respect for and observance of all human rights and fundamental freedoms without distinction, and reaffirming also that States are under the obligation to protect and respect all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons,

Convinced that wars and armed conflicts can lead to radicalization and the spread of violent extremism and disrupt development of human societies and thwart the well-being of humankind,

Recognizing that a primary responsibility of each State is to ensure a peaceful and violence-free life for its people, while fully respecting their human rights without distinction of any kind, to live together in peace with its neighbours, in full respect for political independence and the principle of sovereign equality of others, and to help maintain international peace and security,

Recalling that, as affirmed in the Preamble to the Charter, the practice of tolerance is one of the principles to be applied to attain the ends pursued by the United Nations of preventing war and maintaining peace, and convinced that the respect for and protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms of all persons, as well as tolerance, the recognition and appreciation of others and the ability to live together with and to listen to others, form a sound foundation of any society and of peace,

Welcoming the efforts made by the Secretary-General and his High Representative for the Alliance of Civilizations to promote greater understanding and respect among civilizations, cultures and religions,

Reaffirming that violent extremism constitutes a serious common concern for all Member States, threatening the security and well-being of human societies, and convinced that there is no justification for violent extremism, whatever the motivation,

Recognizing the need for a comprehensive approach to countering violent extremism and addressing the conditions conducive to its spread,

Stressing that States must ensure that any measure taken to combat violent extremism complies with their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law, and underscoring that counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law are not conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing, and are an essential part of a successful effort to counter violent extremism,

Recognizing the commitment of all religions to peace, and determined to condemn violent extremism, which spreads hate and threatens lives,

Reaffirming that violent extremism, in all its forms and manifestations, cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group,

1. *Stresses* the international obligations of all States under the Charter of the United Nations and international law, in particular refraining in their international relations from the threat or use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any State or in any other manner inconsistent with the purposes of

the United Nations and settling their international disputes by peaceful means on the basis of the Charter;

2. *Condemns* the targeting of civilian populations, including women and children, in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including by violent extremists, as well as the attempts to disrupt and divert the popular quest for political reform, moderation and inclusive development in different societies and drive it away from the hard work of development towards violence;

3. *Deplores* attacks on religious places and shrines and cultural sites in violation of international law, in particular human rights and humanitarian law, including any deliberate destruction of relics and monuments;

4. *Urges* all Member States to unite against violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations as well as sectarian violence, encourages the efforts of leaders to discuss within their communities the causes of violent extremism and discrimination and to evolve strategies to address these causes, and underlines that States, regional organizations, non-governmental organizations, religious bodies and the media have an important role to play in promoting tolerance and respect for religious and cultural diversity;

5. *Stresses* that it is important that States strongly condemn all forms of violence against women and refrain from invoking any custom, tradition or religious consideration to avoid their obligations with respect to its elimination, as set out in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women;[3]

6. *Encourages* all States and international organizations to generate public awareness, to enlighten the public about the dangers of intolerance and sectarian violence and to react with renewed commitment and action in support of the promotion of tolerance and human rights, and invites them to continue to pay attention to the importance of mutual cooperation, understanding and dialogue in ensuring the promotion of moderation and tolerance and respect for human rights;

7. *Calls upon* all States to respect and protect, in their fight against violent extremism, all human rights and fundamental freedoms and the rule of law and to support all actions at the local, national, regional and international levels, in cooperation with civil society, to foster understanding, tolerance and non-violence, inter alia, through programmes and institutions in the fields of education, science, culture, communication and information, strengthen democratic institutions, ensure the all-inclusiveness of the development process, eliminate all forms of intolerance and violence, eradicate poverty and illiteracy and reduce inequalities within and among nations in order to leave no one behind;

8. *Underlines* the vital importance of education, including human rights education, as the most effective means of promoting tolerance, in preventing the spread of extremism by instilling respect for life and promoting the practice of non-violence, moderation, dialogue and cooperation, and encourages all States, the specialized agencies of the United Nations and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations to contribute actively to this endeavour by, inter alia, placing emphasis on civic education and life skills as well as democratic principles and practices at all levels of formal, informal and non-formal education;

[3] Resolution 48/104.

9. *Recommends* promoting community engagement in countering violent extremism, including by strengthening ties between communities and emphasizing their common bonds and interests;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to advocate for and disseminate information on tolerance and mutual respect, and underlines the potential contribution of the media and new communications technologies, including the Internet, to promoting respect for all human rights, to developing a better understanding among all religions, beliefs, cultures and peoples, to enhancing tolerance and mutual respect and thus to strengthening the rejection of violent extremism;

11. *Recognizes* the positive contribution that the exercise of the right to freedom of expression, particularly by the media and new technologies, including the Internet, and full respect for the freedom to seek, receive and impart information can make to the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and reiterates the need to respect the editorial independence and autonomy of the media in this regard;

12. *Strongly condemns* any advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence;

13. *Invites* all Member States, organizations of the United Nations system, regional and non-governmental organizations and other relevant stakeholders to endeavour to fulfil, in an appropriate manner, the objectives set out in the present resolution;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly at its seventieth session on the implementation of the present resolution and to recommend ways and means by which the United Nations system and the Secretariat could assist Member States, upon their request and within existing resources, in generating public awareness about the dangers of intolerance, as well as in fostering understanding and non-violence.

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.29 and Add.1)*]

68/128. The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict: breaking the link between the illicit transaction of rough diamonds and armed conflict as a contribution to prevention and settlement of conflicts

The General Assembly,

Recognizing that the trade in conflict diamonds continues to be a matter of serious international concern, which can be directly linked to the fuelling of armed conflict, the activities of rebel movements aimed at undermining or overthrowing legitimate Governments and the illicit traffic in and proliferation of armaments, especially small arms and light weapons,

Recognizing also the devastating impact of conflicts fuelled by the trade in conflict diamonds on the peace, safety and security of people in affected countries, and the systematic and gross human rights violations that have been perpetrated in such conflicts,

Noting the negative impact of such conflicts on regional stability and the obligations placed upon States by the Charter of the United Nations regarding the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing that continued action to curb the trade in conflict diamonds is imperative,

Noting with appreciation that the Kimberley Process, as an international initiative led by the Governments of participant States, has pursued its deliberations on an inclusive basis involving concerned stakeholders, including producing, exporting and importing States, the diamond industry and civil society, as well as applicant States and international organizations,

Recalling that the elimination of conflict diamonds from legitimate trade is the primary objective of the Kimberley Process, and stressing the need to continue its activities in order to achieve this objective,

Welcoming the important contribution of the Kimberley Process, which was initiated by African diamond-producing countries, and calling for the consistent

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implementation of commitments made by Kimberley Process participant States and the diamond industry and civil society organizations, as observers,

Acknowledging the successful role that the Kimberley Process has played in stemming the flow of conflict diamonds in the past decade of its existence and the significant developmental impact it has had in improving the lives of people dependent on the trade in diamonds, and noting that the plenary meeting of the Process, in looking towards the future, committed to continue to ensure that the Process remains relevant as a credible tool in curbing the illegal flow of rough diamonds,

Acknowledging also that the diamond sector is an important catalyst for promoting economic and social development, which are necessary for poverty reduction and meeting the requirements of the Millennium Development Goals in many producing countries, particularly in developing countries,

Bearing in mind the positive benefits of the legitimate diamond trade to producing countries, and underlining the need for continued international action to prevent the problem of conflict diamonds from negatively affecting the trade in legitimate diamonds, which makes a critical contribution to the economies of the producing, exporting and importing States,

Noting that the vast majority of rough diamonds produced in the world are from legitimate sources,

Recalling the Charter and all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council related to conflict diamonds, and determined to contribute to and support the implementation of the measures provided for in those resolutions,

Recalling also Security Council resolution 1459 (2003) of 28 January 2003, in which the Council strongly supported the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] as a valuable contribution against trafficking in conflict diamonds,

Noting with satisfaction that the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme continues to have a positive impact in reducing the opportunity for conflict diamonds to play a role in fuelling armed conflict and would help to protect legitimate trade and ensure the effective implementation of the relevant resolutions on trade in conflict diamonds,

Acknowledging that lessons learned from the Kimberley Process may be useful for the work of the Peacebuilding Commission in its consideration of the countries included in its agenda, as appropriate,

Recalling its resolutions 55/56 of 1 December 2000, 56/263 of 13 March 2002, 57/302 of 15 April 2003, 58/290 of 14 April 2004, 59/144 of 15 December 2004, 60/182 of 20 December 2005, 61/28 of 4 December 2006, 62/11 of 26 November 2007, 63/134 of 11 December 2008, 64/109 of 11 December 2009, 65/137 of 16 December 2010, 66/252 of 25 January 2012 and 67/135 of 18 December 2012, in which it called for the development and implementation as well as a periodic review of proposals for a simple, effective and pragmatic international certification scheme for rough diamonds,

Welcoming, in this regard, the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme in such a way as not to impede the legitimate trade in

[1] See A/57/489.

diamonds or impose an undue burden on Governments or industry, particularly smaller producers, nor hinder the development of the diamond industry,

Welcoming also the decision of the 54 Kimberley Process Participants, representing 81 countries, including the 28 members of the European Union represented by the European Commission, to address the problem of conflict diamonds by participating in the Process and implementing the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

Noting the outcomes of the eleventh plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process, hosted in Johannesburg by South Africa from 19 to 22 November 2013,

Welcoming the important contribution to fulfilling the purposes of the Kimberley Process that has been made and continues to be made by civil society organizations from across participant countries, and the diamond industry, in particular the World Diamond Council, which represents all aspects of the diamond industry in the Process, to assist international efforts to stop the trade in conflict diamonds,

Welcoming also the voluntary self-regulation initiatives for the diamond industry announced by the World Diamond Council, and recognizing that a system of such voluntary self-regulation contributes, as described in the Interlaken Declaration of 5 November 2002 on the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme for Rough Diamonds,[1] to ensuring the effectiveness of national systems of internal control for rough diamonds,

Recognizing that State sovereignty should be fully respected and that the principles of equality, mutual benefits and consensus should be adhered to,

Recognizing also that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, which came into effect on 1 January 2003, will be credible only if all Participants have requisite national legislation coupled with effective and credible internal systems of control designed to eliminate the presence of conflict diamonds in the chain of producing, exporting and importing rough diamonds within their own territories, while taking into account that differences in production methods and trading practices, as well as differences in institutional controls thereof, may require different approaches to meeting minimum standards,

Welcoming the efforts to improve the normative framework of the Kimberley Process through the elaboration of new rules and procedural norms to regulate the activities of its working bodies, Participants and observers and the streamlining of the procedures for preparation and adoption of the decisions and documents of the Kimberley Process, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme,

1. *Reaffirms its strong and continuing support* for the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme[1] and the Kimberley Process as a whole;

2. *Recognizes* that the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme can help to ensure the effective implementation of relevant resolutions of the Security Council containing sanctions on the trade in conflict diamonds and contributes to the prevention of future conflicts fuelled by diamonds, and calls for the full implementation of existing Council measures targeting the illicit trade in rough diamonds, particularly conflict diamonds which play a role in fuelling conflict;

3. *Welcomes* the admission in June 2013 of Mali as a full Participant in the Kimberley Process, as approved through written procedure;

4. *Recognizes* the important contributions that the international efforts to address the problem of conflict diamonds, including the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, have made to the settlement of conflicts and the consolidation of peace in Angola, Liberia and Sierra Leone;

5. *Notes* the efforts to further strengthen implementation of the Kimberley Process, including efforts to continue to examine the application of Kimberley Process Certification Scheme requirements in cross-border Internet sales;

6. *Also notes* the decision of the General Council of the World Trade Organization of 15 May 2003 granting a waiver with respect to the measures taken to implement the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, effective from 1 January 2003 to 31 December 2006, the decision of the General Council of 17 November 2006 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2012, and the decision of the General Council of 11 December 2012 granting an extension of the waiver until 31 December 2018;

7. *Takes note* of the report of the Chair of the Kimberley Process submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 67/135, [2] and congratulates the participating Governments, the regional economic integration organization, [3] the diamond industry and civil society organizations involved in the Process for contributing to the development, implementation and monitoring of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

8. *Acknowledges* the progress made by Kimberley Process working groups, Participants and observers during 2013 in fulfilling the objectives set by the Chair to strengthen implementation of the peer review system, increase the transparency and accuracy of statistics, promote research into the traceability of diamonds, promote inclusiveness by broadening the level of involvement by Governments, industry and civil society in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, foster a sense of ownership by Participants, improve information and communication flows and enhance the capacity of the Certification Scheme to respond to emerging challenges;

9. *Notes* that the annual reporting process on Kimberley Process Certification Scheme implementation is the main comprehensive and regular source of information on the implementation of the Process provided by Participants, and calls upon Participants to submit consistent and substantive annual reports in order to conform to this requirement;

10. *Expresses appreciation* to Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, the Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa and Viet Nam for receiving review visits or missions in 2013, welcomes the commitment of those countries to continuously open their certification systems to reviews and improvements, and calls upon other Participants that have not already done so to make themselves available to receive review visits;

11. *Acknowledges* the efforts of the Kimberley Process to strengthen implementation and enforcement, and in particular to ensure coordination of Kimberley Process actions in relation to the occurrence of fraudulent certificates, to apply vigilance and ensure the detection and reporting of shipments of suspicious origin and to facilitate the exchange of information in cases of infringement, and acknowledges with appreciation the increased level of collaboration among Participants and with the World Customs Organization in this matter;

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[2] A/68/649, annex.

[3] European Union.

12. *Stresses* that the widest possible participation in the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme is essential, encourages Member States to contribute to the work of the Kimberley Process by seeking membership, participating actively in the Certification Scheme and complying with its undertakings, and acknowledges the importance of the increased involvement of civil society organizations in the Process;

13. *Calls upon* the Participants of the Kimberley Process to continue to articulate and improve rules and procedures to further enhance the effectiveness of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes with satisfaction the systematization of the work of the Process with respect to developing transparent and uniform rules and procedures and improving the mechanism for consultations and coordination within the Process, including through the adoption of rules related to non-compliance and statistical anomalies;

14. *Notes with appreciation* the willingness of Kimberley Process Participants and observers to support and provide technical assistance to those Participants experiencing temporary difficulties in complying with the requirements of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

15. *Recognizes* the importance of the Kimberley Process in promoting economic development, particularly in the artisanal and small-scale diamond mining sector, and encourages an increased focus on issues related to development, including through the work of the Diamond Development Initiative;

16. *Notes with appreciation* the continued cooperation of the Kimberley Process with the United Nations on the issue of diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire, in accordance with the provisions of Security Council resolution 2101 (2013) of 25 April 2013 and in line with the administrative decision on sharing information with the United Nations;[4]

17. *Welcomes* the conclusions and recommendations of the review mission to Côte d'Ivoire, which took place from 30 September to 4 October 2013, acknowledges the important steps taken by Côte d'Ivoire to ensure compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements pursuant to Security Council resolution 2101 (2013), notes that, in its 2013 final communiqué, the Kimberley Process plenary meeting recognized that Côte d'Ivoire has fulfilled the minimum requirements as far as possibly could be achieved under the United Nations embargo, and recalls that the Council, pursuant to its resolution 2101 (2013), will review measures in the light of progress made towards Kimberley Process implementation;

18. *Encourages* the Friends of Côte d'Ivoire to continue to provide support to Côte d'Ivoire to prepare it for implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme;

19. *Encourages* the Kimberley Process to continue to actively collaborate with the United Nations Group of Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1584 (2005) of 1 February 2005, and, through liaison, with Côte d'Ivoire, with the ultimate objective of meeting the preconditions for the lifting of United Nations sanctions on the trade in rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire;

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[4] See A/64/559, annex, attachment I.

20. *Acknowledges* Liberia's active involvement in the work carried out by the Kimberley Process regional team for cooperation in the Mano River region, encourages the Process, in collaboration with the Panel of Experts on Liberia, established pursuant to Security Council resolution 2025 (2011) of 14 December 2011, to support the efforts of Liberia to continue reinforcing its internal controls system and to continue to address the challenges to the implementation of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the review visit to Liberia from 18 to 27 March 2013;

21. *Welcomes* the initiative from Kimberley Process Participants in West Africa to enhance their cooperation on Kimberley Process implementation and policy harmonization efforts in the context of the regional approach for the Mano River region, and acknowledges the region's plans for developing a regional strategy and road map as the outcome of a high-level workshop on regional cooperation in West Africa early in 2014;

22. *Notes* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process restated the administrative decision on the temporary suspension of the Central African Republic, as approved through written procedure of 23 May 2013, and the reported willingness of the Central African Republic to address issues of non-compliance with Kimberley Process Certification Scheme minimum requirements and strengthen its internal control systems;

23. *Recalls* the decision of the plenary meeting regarding the continued participation of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in the Kimberley Process, acknowledges the positive step represented by the submissions presented by the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in response to the decision of the plenary meeting, and invites the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela to continue its efforts to fully reintegrate into the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme through the steps outlined in the Kimberley Process communiqué of 30 November 2012;[5]

24. *Notes with appreciation* the role played by the Kimberley Process Administrative Support Mechanism, with the World Diamond Council acting as host for 2013;

25. *Notes* the discussions during 2013 on the subject of the Kimberley Process reforms and the proposed changes to the definition of "conflict diamonds", among other proposals, also notes that consensus was not reached on whether or not to change the definition of "conflict diamonds", and further notes that the Chair, Participants and observers were encouraged to continue dialogue on this issue;

26. *Acknowledges* that the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process adopted a proposal for modifications to the Kimberley Process core document aimed at strengthening the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme within its current remit;

27. *Acknowledges* the adoption by the plenary meeting of the Kimberley Process of seven administrative decisions, on technical definitions; guidelines for the preparation, review and analysis of Kimberley Process statistical data; the chairmanship of Kimberley Process working bodies; Kimberley Process Participants' applications for membership and participation in working bodies; protection guidelines for the use of the Kimberley Process logo; the dissolution of the Participation and Selection Committees and the formation of the Committee on Participation and Chairmanship; and technical certificates for scientific research;

[5] A/67/640, annex, enclosure.

28. *Notes with appreciation* the continued support of the Antwerp World Diamond Centre for the Kimberley Process website, which has been enhanced significantly to make it a more efficient and effective tool;

29. *Reaffirms* the importance of the tripartite nature of the Kimberley Process, and welcomes the commitment of the plenary meeting to continue its constructive engagement with civil society in recognition of the role that civil society plays in the Kimberley Process;

30. *Encourages* further improvement in enforcement of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme, and notes the new efforts made to increase information-sharing and collaboration in enforcement;

31. *Acknowledges with great appreciation* the important contribution that South Africa, as Chair of the Kimberley Process in 2013, has made to curbing the trade in conflict diamonds, and welcomes the selection of China as the Chair and Angola as the Vice-Chair of the Process for 2014;

32. *Requests* the Chair of the Kimberley Process to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-ninth session a report on the implementation of the Process;

33. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-ninth session the item entitled "The role of diamonds in fuelling conflict".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 2013

General Assembly

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 18 December 2013

[*without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.32 and Add.1)*]

68/129. Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence

The General Assembly,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[1]

Recalling the findings and recommendations of the independent inquiry commissioned by the Secretary-General, with the approval of the Security Council, into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda,[2]

Recalling also the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[3] particularly its recognition that all individuals, in particular vulnerable people, are entitled to freedom from fear and freedom from want, with an equal opportunity to enjoy all their rights and fully develop their human potential,

Recalling further its resolution 59/137 of 10 December 2004, in which it requested the Secretary-General to encourage relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to continue to work with the Government of Rwanda to develop and implement programmes aimed at supporting vulnerable groups that continue to suffer from the effects of the 1994 genocide,

Recalling its resolution 60/225 of 23 December 2005, in which it urged Member States to develop educational programmes on the lessons of the genocide in Rwanda, and also requested the Secretary-General to establish a programme of outreach for Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to prevent future acts of genocide,

Recognizing the numerous difficulties faced by survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly the orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence, who

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See S/1999/1257.
[3] Resolution 60/1.

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are poorer and more vulnerable as a result of the genocide, especially the many victims of sexual violence who have contracted HIV and have since either died or become seriously ill with AIDS,

Commending the significant efforts of the Government and people of Rwanda and civil society organizations, as well as international efforts, to provide support for restoring the dignity of the survivors, including the allocation by the Government of 5 per cent of its national budget every year to support the most vulnerable genocide survivors,

Recalling Security Council resolution 1966 (2010) of 22 December 2010, in which the Council requested the International Criminal Tribunal for the Prosecution of Persons Responsible for Genocide and Other Serious Violations of International Humanitarian Law Committed in the Territory of Rwanda and Rwandan Citizens Responsible for Genocide and Other Such Violations Committed in the Territory of Neighbouring States between 1 January and 31 December 1994 to take all possible measures to expeditiously complete all its remaining work no later than 31 December 2014, to prepare its closure and to ensure a smooth transition to the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals,

Firmly convinced of the necessity of restoring the dignity of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, which would help to promote reconciliation and healing in Rwanda,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General,[4]

1. *Recalls* its resolution 58/234 of 23 December 2003, in which it designated 7 April 2004 as the International Day of Reflection on the Genocide in Rwanda, and calls upon the United Nations and the international community to join the Rwandan people for the twentieth commemoration of the 1994 Rwandan genocide in April 2014 and to renew the commitment to the fight against genocide throughout the world;

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to implement resolution 59/137 expeditiously, inter alia, by providing assistance in the areas of education for orphans, medical care and treatment for victims of sexual violence, including HIV-positive victims, trauma and psychological counselling, and skills training and microcredit programmes aimed at promoting self-sufficiency and alleviating poverty;

3. *Calls upon* Member States and the United Nations system to urgently implement the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General;[4]

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue the activities of the programme of outreach entitled "The Rwanda Genocide and the United Nations" aimed at Rwanda genocide victim remembrance and education, in order to help to prevent future acts of genocide;

5. *Notes* the importance of residual issues, including witness protection and victim support, the archives of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and judicial issues, and capacity-building for the Rwandan judiciary and the Genocide Fugitive Tracking Unit of the Ministry of Justice of the Government of Rwanda, and underlines the need for increased and sustained attention to these issues;

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[4] A/68/497.

6. *Welcomes* the adoption of Security Council resolution 1966 (2010), in which the Council decided to establish the International Residual Mechanism for Criminal Tribunals and in this regard calls upon the Mechanism to conclude the remaining cases within the initial period set out in resolution 1966 (2010), and calls upon Member States to support that effort;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Government of Rwanda, to continue to encourage the relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system to take appropriate steps to support, in particular, efforts to enhance judicial capacity-building, transparency and victim support in Rwanda;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in view of the critical situation of the survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda and the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda completion strategy, to continue to take all necessary and practicable measures for the implementation of the present resolution and to submit a report thereon to the General Assembly, at its seventieth session, with concrete recommendations for appropriate solutions to the remaining needs of survivors of the Rwandan genocide of 1994;

9. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventieth session the item entitled "Assistance to survivors of the 1994 genocide in Rwanda, particularly orphans, widows and victims of sexual violence".

69th plenary meeting
18 December 2013